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# Wisconsin Forestry Notes

February 2006

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

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## Additional funds for landowner grant program

*The Legislature recently approved an additional \$400,000 for this year and next to assist landowners in implementing forest stewardship practices on private forest lands.*

The Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program is receiving additional funding to help with the increased pressure on the program resulting from changes to the Managed Forest Law program in the 2005-2007 budget bill. On January 26<sup>th</sup>, the Legislature approved an additional \$400,000 for 2006 and again in 2007. A proposal has been submitted to make this a permanent change in the 2007-2009 budget. The Wisconsin Landowner Grant Program, a state cost-sharing program established by DNR in 1998, already provided \$1,250,000 annually for stewardship practices on private forest land. Up to 50% of the eligible costs are refunded to landowners upon completion of approved work. Grant applications are accepted continuously but processed four times a year - February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1. Applications are funded on the basis of priority. Plan development, afforestation, reforestation and timber stand improvement are top priorities. Part of the additional \$400,000 for 2006 will be awarded in February and the remainder will be awarded at the May award date. This grant program previously had a waiting list of 350 forest landowners so the additional funding will help alleviate that backlog of landowners and help them implement the needed sustainable forestry practices. For additional information about the program, contact [Nicole Potvin](#) at 608-266-2388 or visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Private/financial/> online.

## ATV advisory group forming

*The new master plan for the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest included a directive to form a citizen's advisory group to evaluate appropriate and sustainable All-Terrain Vehicle use on the forest. This group, being formed now, will have until April 2007 to bring their research findings and recommendations to the Department of Natural Resources.*

A citizen's advisory group is being organized to evaluate appropriate and sustainable All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) use on the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest (NH-AL). The effort implements a directive of the forest's master plan approved by the state's Natural Resources Board last October. (See page 165 of the final plan to read the section about [All-Terrain Vehicles](#).) The process calls for organizing a group of citizens with an interest in the future of the forest, to assist and advise the department on ATV usage. A variety of groups have been contacted for individuals to represent a balance of interests and affiliations. Participants will include public and private organizations, local and tribal governments, the business sector and the general public who were involved in writing the forest's master plan. The group will focus on regional trail connectors that support sustainable ATV riding opportunities on the NH-AL within the guidelines of the master plan. The analysis will evaluate and consider potential environmental, social, economic and safety issues. The stakeholders group becomes active in April and will have 12 months before bringing research findings and recommendations to DNR. They will be providing quarterly updates on their work. To be added to the mailing list to receive information updates about their progress, contact [Bob Dall](#) at the WDNR office in Rhinelander at 715-365-8993.

*The new master plan documents for the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest are available online at [http://dnr.wi.gov/master\\_planning/nhal/](http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/nhal/)*

*Click on "video feature" on the right hand side of this page to view a clip about Wisconsin's Karner Blue HCP effort:*

*<http://www.fws.gov/partnerships/>*

*Applications are due soon for two federal programs - Forest Stewardship (March 10) and Forest Legacy (April 1) - administered by WDNR - Division of Forestry.*

## Final plan documents ready for NHAL

The new master plan for the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest was approved in October 2005 and the final documents for the new plan are now available. They are posted online at [http://dnr.wi.gov/master\\_planning/nhal/masterplan\\_final.htm](http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/nhal/masterplan_final.htm) or if you prefer hard copies, contact **Bob Dall** at the WDNR office in Rhinelander at 715-365-8993. There is a fee for hard copies to cover production and shipping costs. The Northern Highland-American Legion is the largest state forest in Wisconsin covering 225,000 acres in Vilas, Oneida and Iron counties. Because this vast forest is such an important part of Wisconsin's ecological, economic and social past, present and future, the planning process garnered a great deal of interest from a wide variety of interest groups. The next forest to begin the master plan revision process will be the Black River State Forest headquartered in Black River Falls.

## Wisconsin HCP featured by national agency

The Wisconsin Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) was selected by the national office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to tell the story of successful partnerships. At their request, the Wisconsin DNR interviewed several of the Wisconsin HCP partners including Dave Lentz, the Division of Forestry's HCP Coordinator, at the Karner Blue Butterfly Festival in Black River Falls last July. The videotaped interviews are now featured on the USFWS website. The project highlights the successes in various Endangered Species Act (ESA) mechanisms, including Habitat Conservation Plans. The interviews also contained suggestions on innovations and experiences in the "Wisconsin Plan" which might be considered in upcoming enhancements to the Endangered Species Act. You can view the Wisconsin video at <http://www.fws.gov/partnerships/> (click on the selection on the right called "video feature").

## Call for proposals issued

Proposals are now being accepted for both the Forest Legacy and Forest Stewardship Programs. The **Forest Stewardship** Program encourages private non-industrial forest landowners to consider all resources in the management of their forest lands and is seeking new, innovative and exciting projects – large or small – to be considered for funding. Grant recipients are required to match the grant funds on a 50-50 basis. Since funding for the program comes through the USDA Forest Service, matching funds cannot come from a federal source nor can they be matched with DNR Forestry staff time or resources. Postmark the [application form](#) no later than March 10th for your project to be considered for funding. **Forest Legacy** is a voluntary program to help private forest landowners protect and maintain valuable forest resources. This [application](#), due in Madison by April 1, is the first step towards obtaining a permanent conservation easement on the forested property. The property must meet a number of requirements to be accepted into this program, including being located within a designated [Forest Legacy Area](#). If you have any questions about or want to apply for either program, contact: **Nicole Potvin**, Forest Incentives and Legacy Specialist at (608) 266-2388.

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**"Wisconsin Forestry Notes" is a monthly electronic publication highlighting programs and activities of the Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry, Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707**  
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